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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS et al

Atty. Ref.: 2551-97

Serial No. 09/686,964

Group: 1648

Filed: October 12, 2000

Examiner: Hill

For: IMPROVED IMMUNODIAGNOSTIC ASSAYS USING REDUCING AGENTS

\* \* \* \* \*

January 6, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REQUEST**

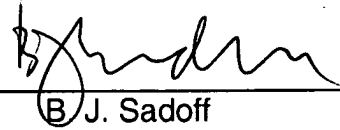
It is respectfully requested that the Examiner return initialed copies of the PTO-1449 Forms, filed with the Information Disclosure Statements on October 12, 2000 and July 2, 2002, to the undersigned. Copies of the same were not received with the Office Action dated November 22, 2005 or the previously-issued Office Actions.

The present paper is not being filed in response to the Office Action of November 22, 2005, however, it is being filed because the Office Action of November 22, 2005, did not include initialed copies of the previously-filed PTO-1449 Forms, pursuant to MPEP Section 609.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. J. Sadoff", is written over a horizontal line.

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